

Application No. 09/781,061

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22, 24-25, 28, 33 and 35 are cancelled.

23. (Currently Amended) A molded shaft made by the using a gas injection molding process comprising:

~~gas injection molding~~ providing an elongated member having at least a portion which is hollow having an inside surface defining a shaft core and an outside surface ~~defining a shaft functional surface;~~

forming at least one aperture in the elongated member extending from the inside surface to the outside surface;

placing at least a portion of the shaft elongated member in a mold;

~~filling the mold with a hardenable, moldable material, using gas injection molding,~~ flowing the a moldable material through at least a portion of the shaft core and the at least one aperture and forming a functional feature associated with the elongated member, the functional feature including at least one outside step extending an outside perimeter and a longitudinal distance and at least one inside step extending an inside perimeter and a longitudinal distance;

permitting the moldable material to harden to form ~~at the~~ functional feature; and

removing the shaft elongated member and the functional feature from the mold providing an assembly, the functional feature of the

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assembly including a periphery surface having at least one surface portion radially spaced from at least one other surface portion and an outside periphery substantially oriented in a plurality of similar directions as an inside periphery over a longitudinal length of the functional feature wherein the functional feature includes an outside offset portion extending the entire outside perimeter and for a distance along a length of the shaft and an inside offset portion extending the entire inside perimeter and for a distance along the length of the shaft, the inside offset portion extending in a direction away from a center of the shaft core and the hardened, moldable material extending from the inside surface through the aperture gate, the material formed on at least a portion of the outside surface.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 23 wherein ~~gas injection molding includes forming the elongated member such that the~~ a distance from the an inside surface to the an outside surface along at least a portion of the elongated member is substantially similar constant along a longitudinal length of the functional feature.

27. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim 23 further comprising coating at least a portion of the periphery surface shaft with a material adapted to provide a frictional driving force.

28. (Cancelled)

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29. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim ~~28~~ 23 wherein the gas injection molding elongated member ~~has results in~~ a one piece ~~construction~~ assembly including the elongated member and the moldable material.

30. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim ~~28~~ 29 wherein the ~~elongated member~~ functional feature comprises a plastic.

31. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim ~~28~~ 29 wherein the ~~elongated member~~ assembly comprises at least one of SPS, polycarbonate, Acetal and ABS.

32. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim ~~28~~ 29 further comprising applying a coating applied to at least a portion of an outside surface of the ~~elongated member~~ assembly.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The molded shaft of claim ~~28~~ 23 wherein the molded shaft comprises at least one of a plastic, urethane, elastomer, and rubber.

35. (Cancelled)